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September 25, 1980

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To: The Secretary

From: EA - Michael H. Armacost, Acting

Mr. George Wald's letter on Kim Dae Jung

We have prepared the attached response (Tab 1) from you to Mr. George Wald of Woods Hole, Massachusetts on the Kim Dae Jung case (Tab 2).

Recommendation

That you sign the letter at Tab 1.

Attachments:

1. Suggested reply.
2. Wald letter of August 9.

Drafted:EA/K:FCAshley:jcm 9/23/80
Concurrences:
EA/K:RGRich HA:RWSkiff

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR
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P800136-0627

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

September 29, 1980

Dist to:
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RF(leb)

Dear George:

Thank you for your August 9 letter, expressing your deep concern over the trial of Mr. Kim Dae Jung and the description of your meeting with him in August 1974.

We are also deeply concerned about the treatment of Mr. Kim and his co-defendants. The Department of State has publicly expressed skepticism about the sweeping charges against him. We have had an observer present throughout the proceedings.

Following the September 17 verdict on Mr. Kim, we registered our dismay at the extreme sentence, but have sought to avoid further comment on the trial during the appeals process in order to avoid jeopardizing prospects for commutation. Privately, we continue to make our views known in very unequivocal terms to the Korean authorities.

With warm best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Edmund S. Muskie

Professor George Wald,
Marine Biological Laboratory,
Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

16 DIVINITY AVENUE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

October 1980

Secretary of State Edmund S. Muskie
State Department
21st & C Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Ed,

It is heartening that you are trying to bring an increased sense of decency and sanity into our foreign relations and operations; and of course pure good fortune that the developments in Poland find us with a Secretary of State of Polish extraction and -- I suspect more important -- one who does not come out of the transnational corporate and banking establishment.

I am writing you now out of a deep concern for what happens to Kim Dae Jung. I visited him at his home in August 1974. He was then under house arrest; and KCIA agents trailed our taxi up to his door.

His first words to me were, "I am suffering from a sciatica brought on by an auto collision that I do not think was accidental, and from an anxiety neurosis." I said that was not surprising; it happened to be the exact anniversary of his kidnapping by the KCIA from a Tokyo hotel. He also expressed concern that the protest of the Japanese government was not because of a brutal violation of human rights, but because that act violated Japanese sovereignty.

As we got to the political situation he said very firmly, "Of course I am entirely anti-communist." He said that so positively as to bother me, since it seemed to close off any possibility of negotiating an eventual reunification with the North. I made the irony of now securing Kim Dae Jung of communist leanings and support.

Actually of course he is now on trial as a leader of the movement for democracy, constitutionality and the protections of human rights that the legitimate Korean constitution offered, that were abolished by Park Chung Hee's Yushin Constitution.

There is some talk of my going to Seoul as an observer the end of this month. I doubt that that is possible, or if it happened that I could learn very much. But if it should happen, I will want to let you know beforehand.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

George Wald

September address: M. B. L., Woods Hole, Mass. 02543 Tel. (617) 548-1748

Harvard Crimson
FEBRUARY 14 19"" PAGE THREE

The Sins of President Park's Police State

Why Harvard Should Refuse Korean Grants

By George Wald

I have followed with deep misgivings the discussion in the press of Harvard's relations with South Korea. Early in 19"5 Harvard University was given $1 million by the Korean Traders Association (KTA) to promote Korean studies. Gregory Henderson, political officer at the U. S. Embassy in Seoul 1958-63, and now a professor at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Diplomacy, characterized the KTA as a Korean government agency responsible for the overall political planning being conducted by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA). Knight News Service, Nov. 19 19"6. What can Harvard's relationship to the KTA and through it to the present regime in South Korea mean? Let me say what it means to me.

The present government of South Korea is one of the most brutal, venal and corrupt on Earth.

The dictator Park Chung Hee keeps the country in a continuous state of paranoia, based upon the alleged imminence of attack by North Korea. It may bring a little perspective to this situation to realize that the South has 35 million people to the North's 16 million, a GNP in 19"4 of $17.5 billion to the North's approximate $5 billion, and armed forces totaling 625,000 to the North's 46",000. (International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, 19"5-'6).

Add to that 41,000 U.S. troops, most of them stationed just below the demilitarized zone so as to be involved at once in any action. They have at their disposal an estimated 600 to 680 tactical nuclear weapons, with an estimated 1,500 more on the Pacific Fleet.

On April 9, 1975, eight alleged members of the People's Revolutionary Party were hanged. The PRP, so far as known, does not exist, but had been invented by the present chief of the KCIA, Shin Ik Soo some ten years earlier to provide a pretext for this kind of action. Two American churchmen, the Rev. George Ogle, a United Methodist, and Father James Sinnott, a Maryknoll priest in Korea since 19"0, were expelled from Korea for attempting to refute the government's charges.

The Park government sells whatever can be sold: babies for adoption; miners and nurses for West Germany, young women as prostitutes and nightclub hostesses in Japan and Korea. Lush travel circulars entice hundreds of thousands of Japanese businessmen to Korea on all-expense *kisaeng* tours that include the services of young Korean women. As preparation these women are given weekly lectures by government appointed professors to assure them that their efforts are a patriotic service, providing foreign exchange that will make a better life for all Koreans. Those sent to Japan are issued passports stamped "Artistic Delegation" by the ROK Ministry of Education. On April 12, 1973 the Minister of Education Min Kwan-sik, in a speech at a Korean high school in Tokyo, praised "the laudable patriotic sentiments of the large number of South Korean *kisaeng* and nightclub hostesses who have come to Japan and are working day and night selling their cunts for the nation." (Ampo: Japan-Asia Quarterly Review, Tokyo, April-Sept. 1976, p. 91. (The vulgarism is at least as shocking in Korea or Japan as here.)

But what Korea sells most of all is cheap labor, paid the second lowest wages in East Asia. In 19"5, 81.9 per cent of the workers earned under $62 per month. The official figure for the cost of living for a family of 5 is $85 per month (Korean National Tax Bureau). There are no unions, so strikes, no enforcement of environmental regulations or workers' health and safety provisions. South Korea is consequently highly attractive to foreign traders and corporations. In 1974 its foreign trade accounted for "4 per cent of its

The Poems of Kim Chi Ha

The poet Kim Chi Ha is currently serving a life sentence in a South Korean prison. At times his verse seethes with fierce emotion and resentment of the police state that has stripped the South Korean people of their freedom, at other moments it speaks in hushed, compassionate whispers about the injustices and exploitation of the weak by the strong. The two poems reprinted here, "No Return" and "Goodbye", exemplify both aspects of the revolutionary poet's work. "No Return" reveals the personal nightmare of the artist in a police state. "Goodbye" captures as best as a male poet can hope to, the torment of Korean women forced by the government to sell their bodies to visiting Japanese businessmen in the loathsome practice known as kisaeng.

No Return

I shall not return having once stepped into this place.
If I sleep, it is the sleep which cuts deeply into the flesh—
That sleep, that white room, that bottomless vertigo:
The sound of high leather boots in the night,
The place where they come and go on the ceiling,
Invisible faces, hands, gestures,
That room where voices and laughter arise—